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BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1964

BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. Garner

Vice-Chairman of the Council: Councillor W. Derbyshire

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor W. Alker

Councillor J. A. Brown

Councillor G. Fairhurst

Councillor T. Gibson

Councillor C. Gore

Councillor T. Gore

Councillor L. Grime

Councillor J. O'Malley

Councillor R. Mather

Councillor J. Turner

Councillor J. Wainwright C.B.E.

Councillor J. M. Wellens

Councillor A. Wilcock

Clerk of the Council Mr. E. Sharples.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor F. Garner.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor G. Fairhurst.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. R. Schofield.

Public Health Inspector: Mr. A. B. Lee.

BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,

Main Street,

Billinge,

Near Wigan.

To the Chairman and Members,
Billinge-and-Winstanley Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report of the health of the District for the year 1964, compiled, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Public Health Department, and especially to the Public Health Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Dr. R. Schofield,
Medical Officer of Health.

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BILLINGE-AND-WINSTANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE AREA

Area in acres	4,596
Number of inhabited houses at the end of the year 1964 according to the rate books	2,762
Rateable Value	£229,059
Sum represented by a penny rate	£954
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid-1964	8,350

Billinge is a pleasant residential village, situated mid-way between the County Boroughs of Wigan and St.Helens, and is conveniently situated to the M6 Motorway.

Residential development of the district has been increasing rapidly during the past three years and is expected to continue.

The chief industries in the area, most of which are long standing, are agriculture, stone quarrying, brick and terra cotta manufacture and some coal mining. There is a large General Hospital, at present being further enlarged, and which employs a considerable amount of local female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	Legitimate	200	100	100
	Illegitimate	8	5	3
		208	105	103
Still Births	Legitimate	3	1	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	Legitimate	1	-	1
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age		Nil.		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age		Nil.		

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1964 - 14.2

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1964 - 11.3

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

IN RESPECT OF THE YEARS 1963 - 1964

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-Natal	
	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Popn. Crude Rate	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 Popn.	No. Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1964	208	24.9	94	11.3	3	14.2	Nil.	Nil.	1	4.8	Nil.	Nil.
1963	161	20.5	107	12.1	6	35.9	Nil.	Nil.	4	24.8	Nil.	Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA

Ambulance Service

Ambulance services are provided by the Lancashire County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946. An Ambulance Station to cover the needs of the Urban District is established in Up Holland Road in the Higher End of the District and the service has been found efficient and satisfactory.

Home Nursing

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, home nursing facilities are provided by the Lancashire County Council.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER FACILITIES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Hospitals

Billinge Hospital is situated in the Northern end of the District and continues its policy of expansion. Facilities are available for general medical treatment, nervous disorders, and in addition a maternity block is provided.

Hospitals are available in Manchester or Liverpool for special cases and infectious cases requiring hospital isolation are usually cared for at Whelley.

Work commenced during the year on the new Maternity block, nurses home and residential accommodation and kitchen alterations.

Maternity and Child Welfare

An Ante-natal clinic is available at Billinge Hospital and the child welfare clinic continues in a part of the local Conservative Club. The new clinic to be built in Rainford Road is eagerly awaited by Medical Staff and mothers alike. Detailed plans have now been submitted and it is hoped the work will commenoe in 1965.

The rapid increase in private house building has resulted in an automatic increase in the population ofthe area. Many new houses are occupied by young couples and the birth rate of the district remains high.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens, samples, etc., are forwarded to the following laboratories for examination:

Wigan Infirmary	-	Pathological and bacteriological specimens
Liverpool City Laboratories	-	Bacteriological specimens.
Liverpool City Laboratories	-	Chemical A nalysis

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of death and the number of deaths from each cause in 1964, with comparative figures for 1963:-

	Number of Deaths			
	-1964-		-1963-	
	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Other	-	-	-	1
Cancer	4	9	6	8
Diabetes	-	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	10	11	11	4
Coronary Disease, Angina..	13	9	13	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	1
Other Heart Disease..	2	2	8	8
Other Circulatory Disease	4	1	3	2
Pneumonia	-	5	4	5
Bronchitis	1	-	3	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea..	1	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	1	-
Congenital Malformation	-	1	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	6	7	12	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	-	-
All other Accidents..	2	2	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum..	-	-	1	-
Suicide	-	1	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	44	50	63	44

TABLE OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1964

Diseases	Total cases all ages	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	25 & over	Age un-known	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	119	9	10	18	18	12	53	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Non-paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meninogococcal Infection	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Total cases all ages	0-	5-	15-	45-	65 & over	Age Un-known	Total Deaths
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis (Infectious)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

This service is under control of the Regional Hospital Board, and the Billinge cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were registered during the year 1964.

No local deaths occurred from tuberculosis during the year.

Disinfestation after Infectious Disease

The method employed with regard to premises is fumigation with formaldhyde gas. No occasion for this arose. Fornities are disinfested in the autoclove by steam.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Type	Pre-School Children	School Children	Adults
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus)			
Primary	135	2	-
Re-Inforcement	2	28	-
Combined Antigen (Diphtheria & Tetanus)			
Primary	1	1	-
Re-Inforcement	-	-	-
Smallpox Vaccinations			
Primary	79	1	4
Re-Vaccination	-	1	2
Poliomyelitis Vaccinations			
Primary	162	8	3
Re-Inforcement	11	56	-

WATER SUPPLY

All houses within the District have a piped supply from the Statutory Undertakers. The Statutory Undertaker is the St. Helens Joint Water Board.

This District is supplied with water from several sources. In the Birchley Area the water is harder than that in the remainder of the district and complaints have been received from time to time. The Board has in progress a plant to soften the water.

During the year the board has carried out extensions to water mains to serve the many new residential areas being built within the district.

The Board has in hand extensive works for the improvement of the water supply to the area, including one new storage reservoir within the district.

Regular sampling of the water for chemical and bacteriological analysis is undertaken by the board. Eleven samples were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Inspector, and found satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

A Water Carriage system serves the majority of the premises in the Urban District. The Hamlet of Kings Moss and isolated areas of Brownlow, Crank remain unserved. The Council have two Sewage Works.

a) The Chapel End Sewage Works, built in 1957 serves the Southern area of Billinge known as the Chapel End.

and

b) The Higher End Sewage Works serving the Northern area of the District.

Part of Pemberton Road discharges into the Wigan Corporation Sewer.

Complaints were received of unsatisfactory effluent discharged from the Chapel End Works. These complaints arise from the considerable overloading of the works due primarily to the rapid increase in development and the amount of surface water and infiltrated water gaining access into the sewers.

It is a matter of urgency that these works be considerably enlarged and that as far as possible separate sewers be provided for the surface and foul water.

On the whole, the Higher End Sewage Works has continued to function satisfactorily, and no complaints were received of unsatisfactory effluent being discharged.

During the year there were several instances of serious flooding due to surcharging of the sewers. This is due to the rapid increase in the development and it is by this that the existing sewers cannot cope with the increased load.

A firm of Consultants have been engaged by the Council to survey and report on the Main Drainage and Sewage Works and it is hoped that the inadequate facilities that now prevail will soon be rectified.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Pollution of the water course at Kings Moss due to effluent from Septic tanks and sludge water from sinks being discharged. The only other instance of pollution coming to the Council's notice is that caused by discharge from the Chapel End Sewage Works.

Sanitary Accommodation (at end of 1964)

No. of privy middens	44
No. of Closets attached to these middens	46
No. of Pail Closets	4
No. of Dry Ashpits	7
No. of moveable dustbins	2788
No. of fresh water closets	2936
No. of dwellings on water carriage system	2704

During the year three privy closets were converted to fresh water closets and three moveable dustbins substituted for fixed recepticles.

Public Cleansing

One eighteen cubic yard Dual Tip Karrier is used for the collection with a labour force of six men and one driver. A weekly collection of refuse is carried out. The Council have agreed to purchase a second vehicle in view of the increase in population and age of the existing vehicle.

There has been a decrease in the number of privy middens from sixty eight in 1963 to forty six. Grants are available to assist owners to convert the insanitary privies to water closets and it is hoped that the number of privies can be further reduced during the next 12 months.

Disposal of the Refuse is by controlled tipping. The tip is situated at Crookhurst Quarry well remote from housing development and an attendant is employed to keep it tidy.

Cesspool Emptying

There are a number of septic tanks in the district. The Council do not have a Cesspool emptier. Periodic emptying at the request of the owners and occupiers is carried out by a local farmer and a charge is made.

Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences for both sexes are situated in Main Street. Considerable vandalism occurred during the year necessitating the new coin boxes. A new block of toilets has been erected by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board just inside the gates to the Hospital in Up Holland Road. These are modern toilets with tiled walls and wash basins are installed. These Conveniences provided for the use of visitors to the Hospital are also available to the General Public.

Swimming Baths and Pools

One private swimming pool is situated in the district and this has its own purification plant.

Offensive Trades

There are none in this District.

Common Lodging Houses

There are none in this District.

Hairdressing Establishments

There are three hairdressing establishments in the district and all are well maintained.

Canal Boats

There are none in this District.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Action can now be taken against excessive noise either by the Local Authority or by a group of at least three citizens.

No complaints of noise nuisances were received during the year.

Agriculture. (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act 1956.

This Act enables Local Authorities to require the provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for employees on farms, etc.

There are 46 farms within the district; eighteen visits were made and no contravensions during the year were observed.

Caravans and Camping Sites

Only one caravan is permanently occupied during the year and this was duly licenced under the 1960 Act (under the Caravan Sites and Controlled Development Act 1960).

There is only one camping site situated near Bispham Hall which is used by the Boy Scouts and which is kept tidy and well-managed.

Atmospheric Pollution

No complaints were received during the year of pollution from chimneys. Four smoke observations were made of smoke emmision from factory chimneys and were found satisfactory.

Informal action was necessary to evade a serious nuisance from Baxter Pit in Pemberton Road which was affecting the houses in the immediate vicinity.

Byelaws under Section 24 of the Clean Air Act 1956 are in operation in the District. These require the installation of approved heating and cooking appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels in all new buildings.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

This Act became fully into effect on the first August, 1965.

During the year fourteen premises were registered under the Act and an initial inspection was made in respect of each one. There is situated within the District shops of various kinds. Assistants other than members of their own family, are employed in 14 shops and young persons are employed in 4 shops. With reference to working hours, weekly half-day holidays, times for meals and rest of young persons employed in shops, also provision relating to health and comfort of shop workers the Lancashire County Council are the enforcing Authority. The Council's Public Health Inspector is however the delegated Shops' Inspector by the County in respect of these matters, and any contravensions are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Conditions generally under the Shops Act and under the Offices, Shops and and Railway Premises Act were found to be satisfactory.

Factories and Work Places

Inspections made under the Factories Act 1937 - 1961

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	10	Nil	Nil
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	10	Nil	Nil

Cases where defects were found: NIL

SCHOOLS

All four schools within the district are provided with water from the mains, wash-basins with hot and cold water services, water closets, and main drainage.

MILK SUPPLY

Under the milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 all persons carrying on the trade of distributor from premises within the District and all premises used as dairies, other than dairy-farms, are registered with the Council. Dairy farms and dairy farmers are registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Number of distributors registered by the Local Authority and operating from:-

(i)	Dairies within the District	4
(ii)	Shops within the District other than dairies	6

THE MILK (Special Designation) REGULATIONS, 1960:-

Under the above-mentioned Regulations all dealers (other than producers) must obtain a licence from the Lancashire County Council, as the Food and Drugs Authority.

Samples of milk from eleven cows in a herd were taken and submitted to the Bacteriologist for the Brucellosis Ring Test. Seven samples were found to be positive. The farmer was advised to send all milk for pasturisation until the result of further samples submitted to the Biological Test were obtained.

The Cows were ultimately withdrawn from the herd.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1965.

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the District. Every effort is made to ensure that the food and drugs sold are genuine and unadulterated as required by the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960.

No prosecutions were taken during the year.

ICE CREAM

One ice-cream factory is situated within the District and is registered.

There are thirteen shops registered for the storage/sale of ice-cream within the District.

Twenty four inspections were made of registered premises. Written Notices were served in respect of four premises requiring work to be carried out to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Twelve inspections were made of vendors vehicles.

Six samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Grading Test. All samples were found to be Grade One which was most satisfactory and indicates a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness throughout manufacture and retail sale.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

There are no slaughterhouses within the District and only three Butcher's shops.

There are several itinerant meat vendors outside the district selling meat within the District.

FOOD PREMISES

Number and type within the District:-

General Grocers	25
Fishmongers	1
Bakers and Confectioners	Nil
Fish Shop	1
Sweets and Minerals	4
Ice Cream Factories - shops selling Ice Cream	14
Butchers	3
Licenced premises, clubs, canteens, cafes etc.	21
Others	1

CLEAN FOOD

Frequent visits have been made to all food premises by the Public Health Inspector and there appears to be a marked improvement in the General Hygiene observed by the persons engaged in the industry and an improvement in the conditions of the premises.

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year various quantities of tinned food stuffs were found unfit for human consumption. These were surrendered and disposed of by burial at the tip.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Number of new houses erected during the year:

		Houses	Flats
(i)	By the Local Authority	16	28
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	220	Nil

2. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:

1. (a)	Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	123
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	541
(c)	No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respecfs reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	5
2.	Total No. of dwelling houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit.	69 app.

3. Houses Demolished

		Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
			Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas:				
(i)	Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	-	-
(ii)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	-	-
(iii)	Houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2), Housing Act, 1947.	Nil	-	-
NOT in Clearance Areas:				
(iv)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957.	15	33	15
(v)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	Nil	-	-
(vi)	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local acts	Nil	-	-
(vii)	Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil	-	-
4.	Unfit Houses Closed			
(i)	Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957	4	9	4
(ii)	Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	Nil	-	.
(iii)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957.	1	2	1

5. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied:

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(i) After informal action by Local Authority	48	-
(ii) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957.	Nil	Nil
(iii) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957.	Nil	Nil

6. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957

Position at end of year:	Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
(i) Retained for temporary accommodation -		
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	-
(b) Under Section 17 (2)	Nil	-
(c) Under Section 46	Nil	-
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53	Nil	-

7. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:

	Number of Houses	Number of occupants of houses in Column (1)
	(1)	(2)
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year.	Nil	-

8. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during year:	Number of dwellings houses or other buildings affected in scheme of	
	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	Nil	-
(ii) Approved by local authority	Nil	-
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	-
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	-
(v) Work completed	Nil	-
(vi) Additional separate dwellings included in (v) above	Nil	-
(vii) Any other action taken under the Acts	Nil	-

9. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 - Standard Grants: and Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964

	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
(i) Applications submitted to Local Authority for improvement to full standard	18
(ii) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard	Nil
(iii) Total applications approved by local authority	16
(iv) Work completed	14
(v) Particulars of any action taken relating to compulsory improvement of dwellings	Nil

No discretionary grants are given by this Council.

Rodent Control

One part time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council.

The Council carry out a free disinfestation service for all dwelling houses and will carry out these infestation works at business premises and agricultural holdings on a rechargeable basis.

Systematic treatment was carried out of all the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tips and the sewers man-holes were treated in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food recommendations. The Council have agreed in principal to farms being treated on a fixed contract price.

	Type of property Non-Agricultural			
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses Including Council Houses.	All others (including business premises)	Total of Columns 1 2 & 3
Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6	2,433	77	2,516
Total Number of properties inspected as a result of notification	6	204	4	214
Number of such properties found to be infested by:- Common Rat- Major	-	-	-	-
Minor	6	198	4	208
Total number of properties inspected in the course of Survey under the Act.	-	-	-	-
Number of such properties found to be infested by:- Common Rat- Major	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	-	-	-
Number of Block Control Schemes.	-	-	-	-

A. B. Lee.

Public Health Inspector.